

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9 and 12-13 are amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks..

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Utsugi (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,792). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to discussing the patentability of the claims, the following remarks are made to aid in the understanding of the claimed invention.

The claimed invention pertains to reducing the drive voltage and to improve display quality. For example, as shown in Fig. 17 and accompanying disclosure at paragraphs [0115]-[0117], The gate voltage "V_{gcur}" at the second TFT 30 corresponds to the potential difference between the potential-holding electrode "st" and the higher one of the common power supply line "com" and the pixel electrode 30. The potential of the common power supply line "com" is maintained higher than the potential of the opposite electrode "op" of the luminescent element 40. The gate voltage "V_{gcur}" of the second TFT 30 corresponds to the potential difference between the common power supply line "com" and the potential-holding electrode "st." The potential of the common power supply line "com" can be set high enough, different from the potential of pixel electrode 30, which corresponds to an intermediate potential between the common power supply "com" and the opposite electrode "op." Thus, the gate voltage "V_{gcur}" of the second TFT 30 can be high enough so that the "on" current of the second TFT 30 is great, enabling a display in a high luminance. If the gate voltage "V_{gcur}" of the second TFT 30 is high enough when the pixel is turned "on" state, the potential of the potential holding electrode "st," i.e., the lower side potential of the image signal "data" can be raised correspondingly such that the amplitude of the image signal "data" can be reduced.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 recites a second transistor, a luminescent element provided between a pixel electrode and an opposite electrode opposed to the pixel electrode, the pixel electrode being connected to a corresponding common supply line through the second transistor, the potential of the corresponding common power supply line being higher than a potential of the opposite electrode when the each pixel is "on", and the potential of the pixel electrode being higher than the potential of the opposite electrode when the each pixel is "on".

Utsugi, as a preliminary matter, discloses in Figs. 3, 5 and 6 that the portion connected to the pixel electrode) corresponding to the electron injection electrode 55) via the transistor Q_1 is a scanning line. Further, as shown in Fig. 2, the voltage V_{DD} 105 as a potential that is higher than the common electrode line 106. Therefore, Utsugi discloses a luminous element that is opposite than what is claimed. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites the potential of the corresponding common power supply line being higher than a potential of the opposite electrode when the each pixel is "on."

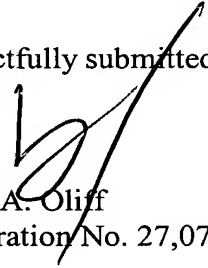
Further, it follows that Utsugi does not disclose or suggest that the potential of the pixel electrode being higher than the potential of the opposite electrode when the each pixel is "on". Therefore, Utsugi's luminous element cannot provide for the benefits and advantages as described above. Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable over Utsugi.

Independent claims 2-7, 9 and 12-13 are also patentable over Utsugi for the reasons as discussed with respect to independent claim 1. Claims 8, 10-11 and 14 depend on the respective independent claims, and therefore are also patentable as well as for the other features they recite. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectively requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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